

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A catalyst carrier comprising:

a ceramic substrate composed mainly of ceramics; and

a pre-coat layer applied on the ceramic substrate,

wherein the pre-coat layer comprises titanium oxide (TiO_2) in an amount of at least 30 mass %.

9. (New) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein at least a part of said TiO_2 is rutile type TiO_2 .

10. (New) The catalyst carrier according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of the rutile type TiO_2 to the whole TiO_2 is at least 50 mass %.

11. (New) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein an amount of the pre-coat layer per unit volume of the catalyst carrier (amount of the pre-coat layer/volume of the catalyst carrier) is 5 to 200 g/liter.

12. (New) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein the ceramics is cordierite.

13. (New) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein the ceramic substrate is a honeycomb structure.

14. (New) A catalyst body comprising:

a catalyst carrier having a ceramic substrate composed mainly of ceramics, and a pre-coat layer applied on the ceramic substrate, the pre-coat layer having titanium oxide (TiO_2) in an amount of at least 30 mass %; and

alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal loaded on the catalyst carrier.